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BRIAN DICKINSON Editorial Page Editor

3 No. 7 19 8

October 19,1981

Mr. William J. Casey Director, Central Intelligence Agency Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Casey:

I was glad for the chance to hear your remarks yesterday afternoon at the Brown University colloquium. Some important things were said, and I think it desirable, as a matter of principle, for the senior intelligence people to get out when they can and discuss their field with interested outsiders.

I was particularly struck by your comments on the process of preparing intelligence estimates, and how you are trying to ensure that a broad spectrum of responsible opinion reaches the President's attention. As you acknowledged in answer to my question about the goof in Iran, past failures to seek out divergent views -- views that differ with an established consensus -- have been costly.

I am quite interested in the evolution of the estimating process, and would welcome seeing whatever documentation is available concerning the shift in emphasis that you outlined. To me, efforts at broadening the information base available to any president are commendable and worth public discussion.

Thanks for an enlightening afternoon.

lian Dickinson

Editorial Page Editor

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